

Custodial Mothers and Fathers and Their Child Support: 2001

Issued October 2003

Consumer Income

P60-225

Current Population Reports

By
Timothy S. Grall

There were 13.4 million custodial parents in 2002.

In the spring of 2002, an estimated 13.4 million parents had custody of 21.5 million children under 21 years of age whose other parent lived somewhere else. About 5 of every 6 custodial parents were mothers (84.4 percent) and 1 in 6 were fathers (15.6 percent), proportions statistically unchanged since 1994 (Table A). Overall, 27.6 percent of all children under 21 living in families had a parent not living in the home.

More custodial parents worked and participation in public programs was lower in 2001 than in 1993.

Between 1993 and 2001, the percentage of custodial parents employed in full-time, year-round jobs grew from 45.6 percent to 55.3 percent. About 28.1 percent of custodial parents were in the labor force working part-time or part-year in 2001. Custodial mothers were more likely than fathers to work part-time, and their full-time, year-round employment increased from 40.9 percent to 52.3 percent in the 8-year span. The full-time, year-round employment for custodial fathers reached a high in 1997 (76.9 percent), before falling to 71.7 percent in 2001 (Figure 1).

Rising employment rates of custodial parents were accompanied by declines in public assistance program participation, which fell from 40.7 to 28.4 percent

between 1993 and 2001.¹ While the rate of program participation for custodial mothers decreased from 45.2 percent to 31.0 percent during that time, it was still about double that of custodial fathers in 2001 (14.9 percent). The proportion of custodial mothers specifically receiving AFDC/TANF fell greatly, from 25.6 percent to 6.3 percent between 1993 and 2001 (Internet Table 4).

Demographic characteristics differed between custodial mothers and custodial fathers.

About 31.2 percent of custodial mothers have never been married (Table B). The remaining ever-married mothers included 43.7 percent who were divorced or separated and 25.1 percent who were currently married or widowed.

The majority of custodial fathers were divorced or separated (56.2 percent), while 24.5 percent were currently married or widowed and 20.3 percent had never been married.² The age of

¹ Public assistance program participation includes receiving at least one of the following: medicaid, food stamps, public housing or rent subsidy, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC), or general assistance. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), more commonly known as the 1996 Welfare Reform Act, replaced the AFDC program with the TANF program.

² The proportion of custodial fathers who were married or widowed (23.5 percent) was not significantly different from the proportion of fathers who had never married (20.3 percent) or the proportion of custodial mothers currently married or widowed (25.1 percent).

Demographic Programs

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU



Table A.

Comparison of Custodial Parent Population and Those With Child Support Awarded, Due, and Received: 1994-2002

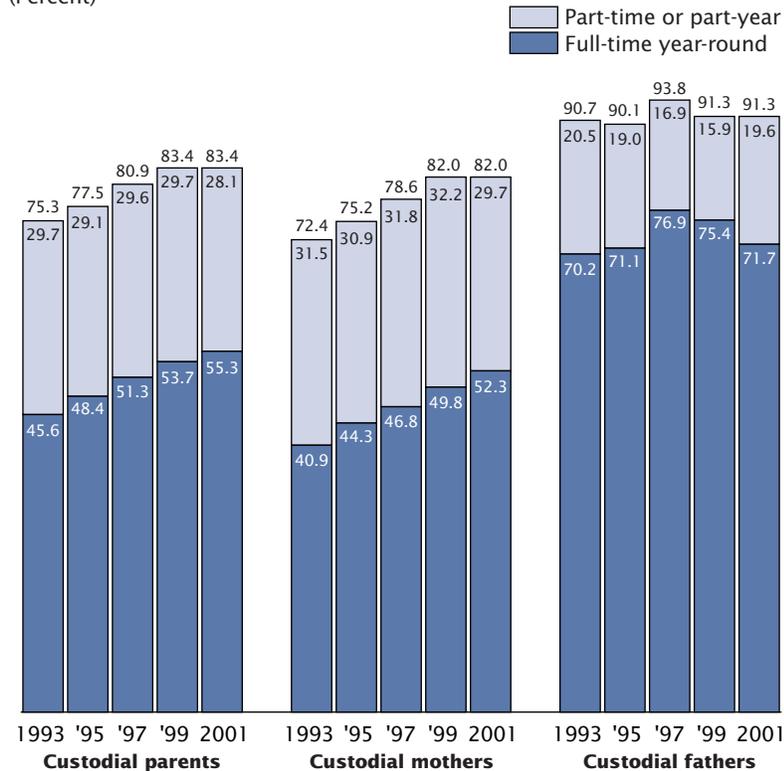
(Numbers in thousands. Parents living with own children under 21 years of age whose other parent is not living in the home. Amounts in 2001 dollars and reflect previous calendar year)

Characteristic	1994		1996		1998		2000		2002	
	Number	Standard error								
ALL CUSTODIAL PARENTS										
Total	13,690	286	13,715	301	13,949	303	13,529	299	13,383	282
Awarded child support	7,800	219	7,967	232	7,876	231	7,945	232	7,916	219
Percent.	57.0	1.1	58.1	1.1	56.5	1.1	58.7	1.1	59.1	1.1
Due child support.	6,688	204	6,958	217	7,018	218	6,791	215	6,924	205
Average child support due ..	\$4,320	\$103	\$4,691	\$122	\$4,562	\$100	\$5,051	\$144	\$5,044	\$114
Average child support received	\$2,820	\$104	\$3,091	\$105	\$3,040	\$95	\$2,965	\$87	\$3,160	\$96
Received any child support ..	5,070	178	5,269	190	5,282	190	5,005	185	5,119	177
Percent.	75.8	1.3	75.7	1.4	75.3	1.4	73.7	1.4	73.9	1.3
Received full amount of child support	2,466	125	2,945	142	3,240	149	3,066	145	3,099	138
Percent.	36.9	1.5	42.3	1.6	46.2	1.6	45.1	1.6	44.8	1.5
Not awarded child support	5,889	192	5,747	198	6,074	203	5,584	195	5,466	183
CUSTODIAL MOTHERS										
Total	11,505	264	11,607	278	11,872	281	11,499	277	11,291	260
Awarded child support	6,878	207	7,123	220	7,080	219	7,150	220	7,110	208
Percent.	59.8	1.2	61.4	1.2	59.6	1.2	62.2	1.2	63.0	1.1
Due child support.	5,913	192	6,224	206	6,342	208	6,133	204	6,212	195
Average child support due ..	\$4,377	\$113	\$4,771	\$134	\$4,583	\$106	\$5,101	\$154	\$5,138	\$124
Average child support received	\$2,871	\$115	\$3,129	\$110	\$3,059	\$101	\$3,047	\$93	\$3,192	\$96
Received any child support ..	4,501	168	4,742	180	4,802	181	4,578	177	4,639	169
Percent.	76.1	1.4	76.2	1.4	75.7	1.4	74.6	1.5	74.7	1.4
Received full amount of child support	2,178	118	2,674	136	2,945	142	2,818	139	2,821	132
Percent.	36.8	1.6	43.0	1.6	46.4	1.6	45.9	1.7	45.4	1.6
Not awarded child support	4,627	170	4,484	175	4,792	181	4,349	172	4,181	160
CUSTODIAL FATHERS										
Total	2,184	118	2,108	121	2,077	120	2,030	118	2,092	114
Awarded child support	922	77	844	76	796	74	795	74	807	71
Percent.	42.2	2.7	40.0	2.8	38.3	2.8	39.2	2.8	38.6	2.7
Due child support.	775	70	733	71	676	68	658	68	712	67
Average child support due ..	\$3,891	\$211	\$4,011	\$228	\$4,360	\$310	\$4,583	\$399	\$4,221	\$253
Average child support received	\$2,438	\$224	\$2,774	\$369	\$2,874	\$265	\$2,190	\$211	\$2,881	\$408
Received any child support ..	569	60	527	60	479	58	427	54	480	55
Percent.	73.4	4.0	71.9	4.4	70.9	4.6	64.9	4.9	67.4	4.4
Received full amount of child support	288	43	270	43	295	45	248	42	278	42
Percent.	37.2	4.4	36.8	4.7	43.6	5.0	37.7	5.0	39.0	4.6
Not awarded child support	1,262	90	1,263	93	1,281	94	1,235	92	1,285	89

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 1994-2002.

Figure 1.
Employment Status of Custodial Parents: 1993-2001

(Percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 1994-2002.

custodial mothers increased somewhat between 1994 and 2002. In 1994, one-quarter (25.4 percent) were 40 years of age or older. By 2002, the proportion had increased to approximately one-third (34.3 percent).

Among custodial mothers, over half (56.0 percent) were non-Hispanic White, about one-fourth (26.7 percent), were Black, and 15.0 percent were Hispanic. Custodial fathers were more likely than mothers to be non-Hispanic White (70.5 percent), less likely to be Black

(15.3 percent), and statistically as likely to be Hispanic (11.1 percent).³ Over half (57.7 percent) of custodial parents had only one child, but custodial mothers were more likely than fathers to have two or more

³ Because Hispanics may be of any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlaps with data for the White and Black populations. Based on the 2002 CPS April supplement, 18.2 percent of White custodial parents and 4.1 percent of Black custodial parents were Hispanic. Data for other race groups are not shown because of the small sample size in the April CPS supplement. The proportion of custodial fathers who were Black (15.3 percent) was not significantly different from the proportion who were Hispanic (11.1 percent).

children living with them in 2002 (43.7 percent and 34.2 percent, respectively) (Internet Table 4).

Custodial-parent family poverty rates continued to fall.

The proportion of custodial parents and their children living below the poverty level declined from 33.3 percent in 1993 to 23.4 percent in 2001 (Figure 2). Despite the steady decline in poverty for custodial-parent families, the rate remained about four times higher than the rate for married-couple families with related children in 2001 (6.1 percent).⁴

Poverty levels varied among many custodial-parent groups. Although the poverty rate of custodial mothers fell from 36.8 percent in 1993 to 25.0 percent in 2001, it was still significantly higher than the rate of custodial fathers, 14.7 percent. Poverty rates were at least 55 percent for custodial parents who did not work or those who were participants in public assistance programs in 2001. Young (under 30 years of age), Black, or never-married custodial parents also tended to have higher rates of poverty (about 36 percent) than other members of their respective demographic groups. Custodial parents working full-time, year-round had considerably lower poverty rates, at just 7.8 percent (Internet Table 4).

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey; "Table 4. Poverty Status of Families, by Type of Family, Presence of Related Children, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1959 to 2001" www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/histpov/hstpvov4.html.

Table B.

Demographic Characteristics of Custodial Parents by Award Status and Payments Received: 2002

(Numbers in thousands. Parents living with own children under 21 years of age whose other parent is not living in the home)

Characteristic	Child support agreed to or awarded								
	Total	Supposed to receive child support payments in 2001							
		Total	Total	Total	Received payments			Did not receive payments	Child support not awarded
					Total	Full payment	Part payment		
ALL CUSTODIAL PARENTS									
Total	13,383	7,916	6,924	5,119	3,099	2,020	1,804	5,466	
Standard error	282	219	205	177	138	112	106	183	
CUSTODIAL MOTHERS									
Total	11,291	7,110	6,212	4,639	2,821	1,818	1,573	4,181	
Percent.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Family income below 2001 poverty level .	25.0	22.1	21.6	19.1	15.0	25.5	28.9	30.0	
Age									
Under 30 years.	26.8	22.4	22.3	19.9	14.2	28.7	29.6	34.1	
30 to 39 years	38.9	41.6	42.5	44.4	42.5	47.3	36.7	34.3	
40 years and over	34.3	35.9	35.2	35.7	43.3	24.0	33.6	31.6	
Race and Hispanic origin									
White	69.5	74.0	74.4	78.1	78.8	77.1	63.7	61.8	
White, not Hispanic origin	56.0	62.8	63.4	67.3	67.8	66.6	51.7	44.6	
Black.	26.7	22.7	22.5	19.3	19.2	19.5	32.0	33.4	
Hispanic origin (of any race)	15.0	12.4	12.2	11.9	12.0	11.6	13.0	19.3	
Current Marital Status									
Ever married	68.8	74.2	74.7	78.2	82.0	72.4	64.4	59.6	
Never married.	31.2	25.8	25.3	21.8	18.0	27.6	35.6	40.4	
Educational Attainment									
Less than high school diploma	17.0	13.0	12.3	9.8	7.4	13.5	19.5	23.8	
High school graduate	37.9	37.8	38.2	38.1	37.1	39.7	38.6	38.1	
Less than 4 years of college	31.6	34.1	34.1	35.3	35.3	35.3	30.8	27.4	
Bachelor's degree or more.	13.5	15.1	15.3	16.8	20.2	11.5	11.1	10.8	
CUSTODIAL FATHERS									
Total	2,092	807	712	480	278	202	232	1,285	
Percent.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Family income below 2001 poverty level .	14.7	16.7	18.3	16.0	10.8	23.3	22.8	13.4	
Age									
Under 30 years.	11.6	15.1	16.9	14.4	7.6	23.8	22.0	9.3	
30 to 39 years	36.0	35.4	33.7	37.1	33.8	41.6	26.7	36.3	
40 years and over	52.4	49.4	49.4	48.3	58.6	34.7	51.3	54.4	
Race and Hispanic origin									
White	80.9	81.4	82.6	85.4	90.3	78.7	76.7	80.6	
White, not Hispanic origin	70.5	69.5	69.1	73.3	80.2	63.4	60.8	71.1	
Black.	15.3	13.0	14.0	11.5	7.9	16.3	19.4	16.8	
Hispanic origin (of any race)	11.1	12.5	14.2	13.1	9.7	17.8	16.4	10.2	
Current Marital Status									
Ever married	79.7	78.6	77.0	77.9	84.5	68.8	75.0	80.3	
Never married.	20.3	21.4	23.0	22.1	15.5	31.2	25.0	19.7	
Educational Attainment									
Less than high school diploma	14.1	15.5	15.3	15.2	11.5	20.3	15.5	13.2	
High school graduate	40.4	42.1	41.9	40.2	43.2	36.1	45.3	39.4	
Less than 4 years of college	28.9	25.5	26.4	25.4	23.4	28.2	28.4	31.1	
Bachelor's degree or more.	16.5	16.9	16.4	19.2	21.9	15.3	10.8	16.3	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 2002.

Text Box 1

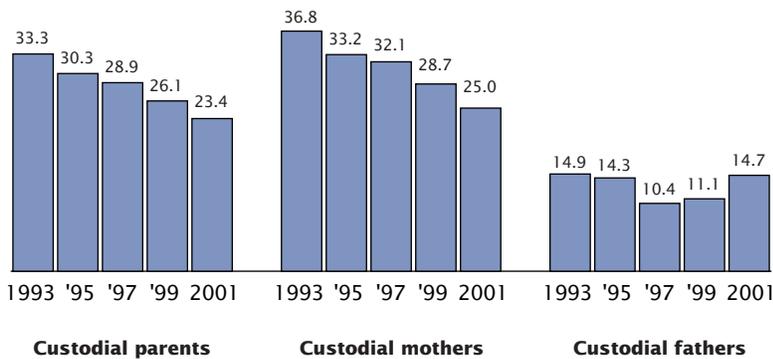
This report presents data on parents with children whose other parent is not living with the family. It focuses on the child support income that custodial parents reported receiving during the calendar year prior to the survey, as well as other support provided, such as health insurance and noncash support. Because child support is frequently ordered until a child is 21 years old or completes college, this report specifically includes own children under 21, rather than the usual definition used by the Census Bureau of children under 18 years of age. Some children living with neither biological parent, such as those living with grandparents or foster parents, may also be eligible for child support, but are not included in this report.

The source of data is the April 2002 supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS), which provides information for calendar year 2001. Some of the households in the sample also participated in the March 2002 CPS, when additional supplemental information, such as income and health insurance coverage in the preceding year, was also collected. Changes to the April CPS supplement in 1994 do not allow for comparisons with CPS data collected

before that year. These changes included refining the screening of potential respondents; restructuring the questionnaire to accommodate computerizing the survey; revising terminology that refers to types of child support agreements or awards; increasing the detail in questions about the amount of child support due; including overdue child support (back support) in the amount of child support due; and adding new questions on pass-through payments (child support collected for public assistance recipients by a state enforcement office, some of which passes through to recipients). The amount of child support payments to recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) is likely underreported because some states retain some or all child support collected on behalf of children of custodial parents.

All statements in this report have undergone statistical testing, and all comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level. Further information on the source and accuracy of the estimates is at www.bls.census.gov/cps/ads/2002/S&A_02.pdf. Additional detailed tables are available via the Internet at www.census.gov/hhes/www/chldsupt.html.

Figure 2.
Poverty Status of Custodial Parents: 1993-2001
(Percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 1994-2002.

About 59 percent of custodial parents had child support agreements in 2002.

Of the 13.4 million custodial parents in April 2002, 7.9 million (59.1 percent) had some type of support agreement or award for their children.⁵ Figure 3 shows that an overwhelming majority of agreements were reported by the custodial parent as legal (established by a court or other government entity), while nonlegal, informal agreements or understandings represented only a very small proportion.⁶ The remaining included 5.5 million custodial parents who had no child support agreements, and 300,000 where legal arrangements were pending.

⁵ Support award rates have remained relatively unchanged since 1993.

⁶ A nonlegal agreement is any written or verbal agreement or understanding that was never approved or ordered by court or government agency.

When the 5.9 million custodial parents without any agreements or those with informal agreements were asked why a legal agreement was not established, the reason most often cited was that they did not feel the need to go to court or get legal agreements (32.7 percent). Among the other reasons given were that the other parent provided what they could for support (26.3 percent), and they felt the other parent could not afford to pay (23.3 percent). See Figure 4 for a listing of all reasons.⁷

Custodial mothers were more likely than fathers to have child support awards.

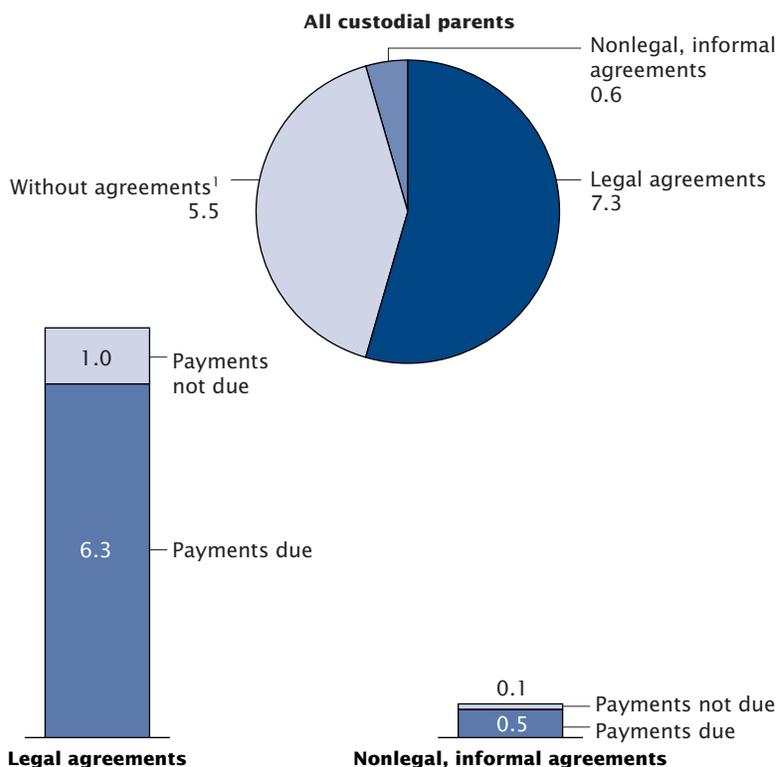
About 63.0 percent of custodial mothers and 38.6 percent of fathers had child support agreed or awarded to them. There was considerable variation in award rates based on the demographic characteristics of custodial mothers. Child support award rates were about 50 percent for custodial mothers who had income below the poverty level, who were Black or Hispanic, who had less than a high school diploma, who had never married or were separated, or who were under 30 years of age. Custodial mothers who were non-Hispanic White or divorced had significantly higher award rates (over two-thirds), as shown in Internet Table 4.

About three-quarters of custodial parents received at least some child support payments.

Approximately 6.9 million of the 7.9 million custodial parents with child support agreements or awards in 2002 were due payments from

⁷ The proportion stating the other parent could not afford to pay (23.3 percent) was not significantly different from the proportion stating the other parent provided what they could for support (26.3 percent).

Figure 3.
Award Status of Custodial Parents: 2002
(Numbers in millions)



Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.
¹ Includes 0.3 million custodial parents with pending agreements.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 2002.

those awards.⁸ Among these parents who were due support in 2001, 73.9 percent received at least some payments directly from the noncustodial parent, a proportion unchanged since 1993.⁹ The average annual amount of child support received for these parents receiving at least some support was \$4,300, and did not differ between mothers and fathers.

⁸ The remaining 1.1 million custodial parents with child support agreements or awards were not due child support payments because either the child(ren) were too old, the noncustodial parent died, the family lived together part of the year before interview, or some other reason.

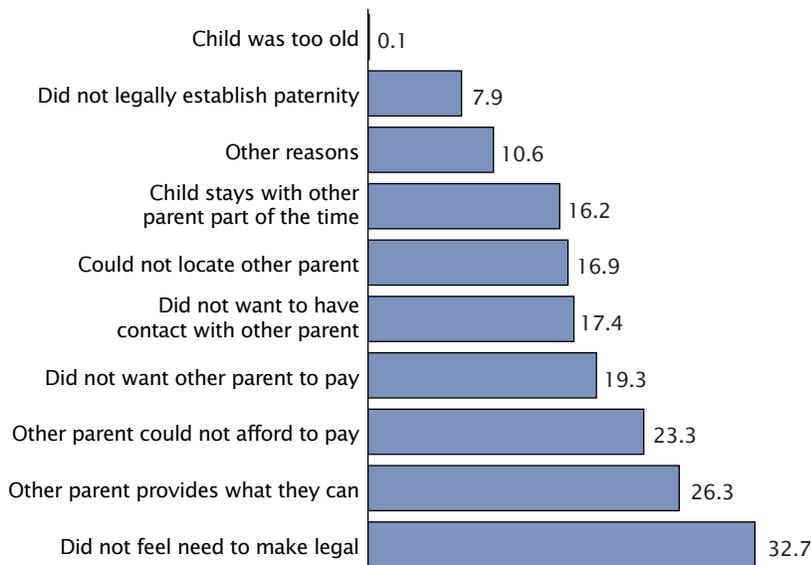
⁹ The term noncustodial parent refers to the parent who is not a member of the household in the sample. Some of these parents may, in fact, share custody of their children.

The proportion of custodial parents receiving every payment they were due increased from 36.9 percent to 46.2 percent between 1993 and 1997, and the 2001 proportion remained unchanged at 44.8 percent. Among these parents, the average amount received was \$5,800, and did not differ significantly between mothers and fathers.

While the proportion of custodial parents receiving full payments increased since 1993, the proportion receiving some of the payments due fell from 38.9 percent in 1993 to 28.6 percent in 1999 and was unchanged in 2001.

Figure 4.
Reasons No Legal Agreement Established for Custodial Parents: 2002

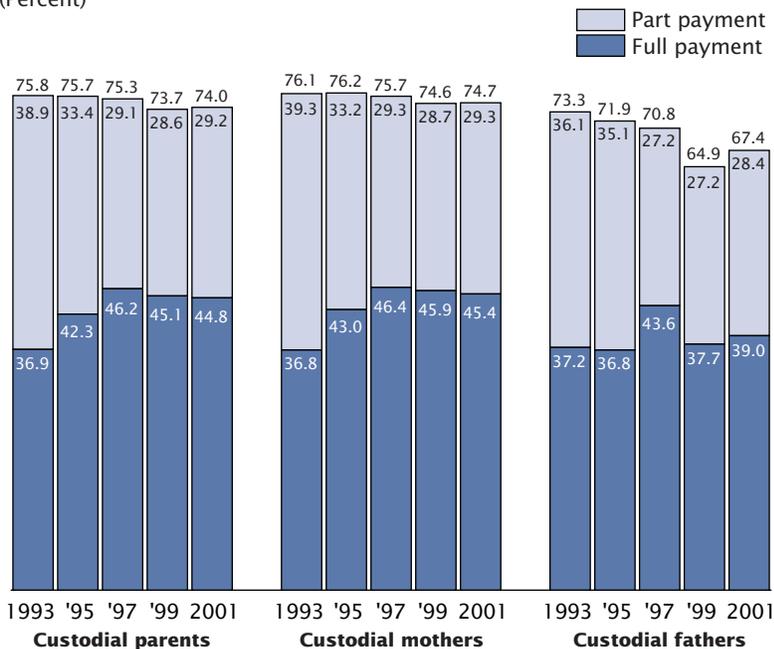
(Percent)



Base: 5.9 million custodial parents without agreements or with informal agreements. Excludes those with pending agreements. Total of percentages exceeds 100 because respondents could list more than one reason.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 2002

Figure 5.
Custodial Parents Receiving Part, or Full Child Support Payments Due: 1993-2001

(Percent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, April 1994-2002.

(Figure 5).¹⁰ Average child support received by these parents amounted to \$2,100 per custodial-parent family (Internet Tables 5 and 6).

Of the 1.5 million custodial parents below poverty and due child support in 2001, 65.6 percent received at least some payments, which included those receiving the full amount (30.8 percent) and less than the full amount of support due (34.7 percent), as shown in Internet Table 4.¹¹ The average amount of child support received by custodial-parent families below poverty who received any payments was \$3,000, accounting for 40.2 percent of their total family income (Internet Table 5).

Income was higher and poverty lower for custodial parents receiving all child support due.

The average family income for the 3.1 million custodial parents who received all the child support they were due in 2001 was \$32,300 and their poverty rate was 14.6 percent. There was no significant difference in average income or poverty rates between custodial parents who received only part of child support due, those that received none of the child support due, or those without child support agreements. Each of these groups of custodial parents averaged about \$25,000 in family income and had poverty rates around 25 percent (Internet Tables 4, 5, and 6).

¹⁰ The proportion of custodial parents who received full support payments in 1993 (36.9 percent) was not significantly different from the proportion receiving partial payments that same year (38.9 percent). For custodial fathers, the apparent decrease in the proportion receiving partial support and increase in the proportion receiving no support between 1993 and 2001 are not statistically significant.

¹¹ The proportion of custodial parents below poverty and due payments who received the full amount of support (30.8 percent) was not significantly different from the percent receiving less than full payments (34.7 percent).

Average total family income increased by 30.4 percent, in real terms, between 1993 and 2001 for custodial mothers who received any child support payments. Among similar custodial fathers during this time, average income declined by about 4.1 percent. For custodial mothers who received no payments, average income increased by 23.2 percent between 1993 and 2001 (Internet Table 5).

Custodial parents reported receiving about 63 percent of child support due in 2001.

The 6.9 million custodial parents who were due child support under the terms of agreements or current awards were due an average of \$5,000 in 2001; an aggregate of \$34.9 billion in payments due. Of this amount, about \$21.9 billion (62.6 percent) was received, averaging \$3,200 per custodial-parent family. The average amount of support received in 2001 was about 12.1 percent higher, in real terms, than in 1993. The average amount of child support due increased by 16.8 percent during this same time. In 2001, custodial mothers received \$19.8 billion of the \$31.9 billion in support that was due (62.1 percent) and custodial fathers received \$2.1 billion — 68.3 percent of the approximate \$3.0 billion that was due (Internet Table 1).

Overall, custodial parents reported receiving \$22.8 billion directly from the noncustodial parent for support of their children in 2001, which included \$900 million received by parents without current awards or agreements.¹²

¹² Custodial parents receiving child support without current awards may be those with awards for children past the age of eligibility for payments, those with awards officially starting after 2001, or those with no awards (no legal or nonlegal awards) at all.

Over half of child support awards had provisions for health insurance.

About 58.9 percent of the 7.9 million child support agreements in 2001 had provisions for health insurance for the children. Of these 4.7 million agreements, the obligated parent provided health insurance coverage 46.3 percent of the time.¹³ Among the 2.6 million agreements where health insurance coverage was not part of the child support award, 12.1 percent of noncustodial parents provided health care coverage for their children. For the 5.5 million custodial parents without child support awards, 16.6 percent of noncustodial parents provided health insurance. Overall, approximately 3.4 million noncustodial parents provided health insurance for their children (Internet Table 8).

Child support was more likely to be received by parents with custody and visitation agreements.

A large majority (85.3 percent) of the 6.9 million custodial parents due child support payments in 2001 had arrangements for joint child custody or visitation privileges with the noncustodial parents, and approximately three-fourths (77.1 percent) of these parents received some support payments. Of the custodial parents due child support but who did not have joint custody or visitation arrangements, about half (55.8 percent) received any payments.

For the 6.5 million custodial parents without agreements, or with

¹³ In many states, either parent can be obligated in a child support order to carry health insurance for their children. If the custodial parent is required to carry the coverage, the noncustodial parent may be required to contribute toward the cost of family coverage. The number of child support agreements excludes 600,000 awards made in 2002, but not due in 2001.

agreements but not due child support, 68.6 percent had arrangements with the noncustodial parents for visitation privileges or some type of shared custody (Internet Table 9).

Custodial parents with agreements or awards were more likely to receive noncash support.

Many noncustodial parents provided assistance in the form of noncash support, such as gifts or expenses. About 61.0 percent of all custodial parents received at least one type of noncash support for their children. If the custodial parent had a child support agreement or award, two-thirds (65.8 percent) received some type of noncash support, compared with 54.1 percent without awards.

The most common type of noncash support was gifts for birthdays, holidays, or other occasions, (58.2 percent), followed by clothes (39.3 percent), food or groceries (28.5 percent), medical expenses (other than health insurance) (18.7 percent), and full or partial payments for child care or summer camp (10.1 percent), as shown in Internet Table 10.¹⁴

Total requests for assistance related to child support declined between 1994 and 2002.

About 36.5 percent of custodial parents contacted a child support enforcement office (IV-D office), state department of social services, or other welfare or TANF office for child support assistance in 2001. This number dropped 15.5 percent, from 5.8 million to 4.9 million, between 1994 and 2002. Also, the total number of contacts for assistance decreased 19.2 percent

¹⁴ Total of percentages exceeds 100 because more than one type of noncash support may have been received.

during this time, from 13.0 million to 10.5 million. Contacts were made for many reasons, but the most likely were to collect child support that was due (27.9 percent), to establish a legal agreement or court award (23.1 percent), to obtain welfare or public assistance (14.2 percent), and to locate the noncustodial parent (13.1 percent), as shown in Internet Table 2.¹⁵

About the survey.

Data are from the 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2002 April supplements to the Current Population Survey (CPS). The Census Bureau conducts the April supplement sponsored, in part, by the Office of

¹⁵ The proportion of custodial parents seeking assistance to obtain welfare or public assistance (14.2 percent) was not significantly different from the proportion contacting an agency to locate the noncustodial parent (13.1 percent).

Child Support Enforcement of the Department of Health and Human Services. Data from the April 1992 and earlier supplements are not directly comparable to data from 1994 and later years because of changes made to the questionnaire (see "Text Box 1" for more detail). Because of changes made to the allocation procedures, data for custodial parents due and receiving child support were revised starting with the April 1994 survey. Reported estimates may differ from those published prior to 2002 due to these changes.

Accuracy of the estimates.

All survey data are subject to sampling variability, survey design flaws, respondent classification errors, and data processing mistakes. The Census Bureau has taken steps to minimize errors, and tested all analytical statements to meet statistical standards.

However, because of methodological differences, use caution when comparing these data with data from other sources.

Please contact Aneesah Stephenson of the Demographic Statistical Methods Division via Internet e-mail at dsmd.source.and.accuracy@census.gov, for information on the source of data and the accuracy of estimates, including use and computation of standard errors. A detailed source and accuracy statement is available at www.census.gov/hhes/www/childsupport/source.html.

More information.

For additional questions or comments, contact Timothy Grall at 301-763-6685 or via Internet e-mail at Timothy.Scott.Grall@census.gov.